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96.00 Utility Accommodation
96.60 Specific Requirements
96.62 Electric

By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

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A. Standards

The minimum standards for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of electric-type utility facilities shall be those embodied in the Wisconsin Administrative Code for each of the various utilities and phases of utility activities covered therein. When the codes, ordinances, or laws of governmental agencies having jurisdiction are more restrictive, they shall govern. When neither the Wisconsin Administrative Codes nor the local governmental regulations apply, the electrical power facility shall at least conform with the currently applicable National Electrical Safety Code.

B. Additional Permit Information

For transmission type installations, the permit shall specify the proposed operating voltage or voltages.

C. Type of Construction

For above ground (overhead) installations, the following should be considered:

1. Single Pole

Any longitudinal installations of overhead lines within the right-of-way should utilize single pole construction.

2. Joint Use

Joint use single pole construction should be used:

- a. At locations where more than one utility or type of facility is involved.
- b. When the right-of-way widths approach the minimum needed for safe operations or maintenance requirements.
- c. When separate installations require extensive removal or alteration of trees.

D. Down Guy Locations

Guy wires to ground anchors and other supporting or bracing devices shall not be placed between a pole and the traveled way where they would encroach upon the clear zone unless specifically authorized by the Department utilizing breakaway technology.

E. Maintenance Activities

Certain maintenance and other types of utility activities are considered minor in nature, and shall be allowed to be performed without an additional permit. However, should any of these selected maintenance activities be performed on facilities located within freeway right-of-way (except #37) or significantly impact the free flow of traffic on any other highway (closure of a travel lane, diversion of traffic, etc.), a permit shall first be obtained from the Department.

No additional permit is required for:

1. Switching.
2. Fuse replacement.
3. Transformer replacement.
4. Crossarm, bracket, and hardware repair/replacement.
5. Add anchor, guy, or brace between pole and right-of-way line or no closer to traveled way than pole.
6. Trench a pole to maintain or increase roadside clearance.
7. Replace pole, same location, maximum of 10 poles per 8-kilometer (5-mile) section.

Note: Once a new pole is installed, all attached facilities (electric, telephone, CATV, etc.) shall be transferred to the new pole in a timely manner. The old pole shall then be completely removed in accordance with policy 96.54(A).

8. Repair or replacement of overhead conductor, 2 spans or less.
9. Line patrolling.
10. Manhole inspection (includes water removal, cable tagging, minor modifications, etc.).
11. Electrolysis surveys.
12. Test for gas.
13. Test for location of underground lines.
14. Paint poles, towers, or crossarms.
15. Straighten pole, crossarm, or brace.
16. Test or treat existing pole.

E. Maintenance Activities (Continued)

17. Clean insulators.
18. Remove debris from overhead line.
19. Repair or add grounds.
20. Resag, reattach, or rearrange conductor.
21. Sample or test insulating oil.
22. Repair cable bonding.
23. Install or remove transformer or regulator.
24. Survey lines.
25. Replace outdoor lighting bulbs and cleaning glass.
26. Repair or replace outdoor lighting control.
27. Reset time clock or control switch.
28. Replace pole tags or signs.
29. Reinforce existing pole.
30. Mark location of proposed pole; proposed cable.
31. Grass cutting or snow plowing.
32. Trim trees or remove brush for existing line.
33. Sign and marker installation/replacement.
34. Minor repair of lines (splice, etc.).
35. Replace/remove line in existing duct.
36. Repair or replace overhead service.
37. Reading service meters. (Access from expressway or freeway shoulders is allowed during non-peak rush hours only.)